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“ The Treasurer reports, that there is £1052 6s. 8d. in 3 per Cent. Consols, and £1609 4s. 9d., in $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Stock, the latter being the Cunningham Fund.

“ (Signed,)

“ AQUILLA SMITH.

“ *March* 16, 1842.”

April 11.

SIR WM. R. HAMILTON, LL.D., President, in the Chair.

Rev. Richard Butler, Robert Law, M. D., and John Toleken, M. D., F. T. C. D., were elected members of the Academy.

Mr. Ferguson read a paper by the Rev. Arthur B. Rowan, A. M., M. R. I. A., on the ancient Church of Kilmelchedor.

This church stands in a small hamlet and parish of the same name, in the barony of Corkaguiny, county of Kerry, at the foot of Brandon mountain, and near the harbour of Smerwick. At the top of the neighbouring mountain is a small ruined oratory, and a well of great reputed sanctity, which are dedicated to St. Brandon, or Brendan, the founder of the Diocesan Cathedral of Ardfert; and the neighbourhood is further remarkable for some of those small stone-roofed cells or chapelries which are supposed to belong to a very remote age, and of which one that has been described and engraved by Smith, in his History of Kerry, still remains in complete preservation. The church derives its name from St. Melchedor, who is mentioned in a catalogue of saints in the book of Ballimote; also in a MS. calendar in the Library of the Academy, where, under the date May 14, he is commemorated as “ Melchedar, son of Ronan, son of the King of Ulster, of Kilmeilche[dor?], on the sea shore, at Knock-

Brennaun in the west." For this information the author acknowledges himself indebted to Mr. Owen Connellan. He then proceeds to the description of the church, of which plans and drawings are given. "The building," he says, "stands due east and west, and consists of two parts, the nave and choir, separated by a richly carved semicircular archway. The former is twenty-six feet long, by sixteen feet wide, and thirteen feet high to the springing of the stone roof. The choir is, as usual, much smaller, being but sixteen feet long, by twelve wide, and eleven feet high to the roof, which was also of stone. There are five windows, one in the eastern gable, and one at each side in the nave and choir; all of them having the round arch of the same style of architecture as the ornamented doorways. The entrance to the church is at the western end, through a richly ornamented doorway of the Anglo-Norman, or, as it is more correctly called, the Lombardic style of architecture. Making allowance for the greater size and profusion of ornament, I find in the arches of the western door and nave of Rochester Cathedral, the nearest model for the doorways of Kilmelchedor church. In Ireland, the account given by Grose, in his *Antiquities*, of Cormac's Chapel or Crypt at Cashel, may, *pro tanto*, be copied as a description of Kilmelchedor. Thus he tells us, 'it is a stone-roofed chapel,' with 'a nave and choir,' with 'columns supporting the grand arch leading into the choir; the columns short and thick; the portal *semicircular*, with *nail-head* and *chevron mouldings*; the windows also round.' So far the descriptions of both buildings exactly agree."

The roof of Kilmelchedor seems to have been constructed on the same principle as the roofs of the ancient and curious stone hermitages in its neighbourhood; one stone overlapping the other, with sufficient bearing to sustain the weight as the work advanced. But the chief peculiarity of this church is the elaborate ornament of the interior nave,

which is of a kind to attract attention even if found in one of our most richly adorned churches, but much more so in a building in this remote situation. At the height of about four feet from the floor, the nave shows, on each side through its whole length, a series of square pannelled compartments, separated by short massive pilasters projecting from the wall. These compartments, twelve in number, are in perfect preservation, and appear to have been originally executed in polished stone. The nave windows occupy a compartment at each side, and are surmounted by plain round arches.

Within the choir, and springing directly from each side of the doorway, there are small arched apertures, the use of which the author is at a loss to conjecture. The semicircular head of the western doorway is filled with a single stone, on the inner side of which is a projecting effigy, now too much defaced to admit more than a conjecture as to what it represented. In the church-yard stands a rude gigantic cross, formed of a single stone; another, less rude, lies half prostrate, and has been built into the wall of a tomb. Ogham stones are found at several places in the neighbourhood; there is one, much effaced, in the churchyard.

Having noticed the vulgar tradition that the church "was built long ago by the Spaniards," the author offers some conjectures as to the probable date of its erection, which he concludes to have been in the eighth or ninth century, "when the Danes had intercourse with this and with other parts of Ireland;" but he supposes that it was ornamented and finished in its present style at a subsequent period.

The following notice of an ancient Boat, found near Drogheda, was read by W. I. Hughes, Esq.

During the progress of the works carried on by the Corporation of Drogheda for the improvement of the port and harbour, it was found necessary to deepen the bed of the River